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Educational Writings

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

Educational measurements.—There has been a widespread demand for a textbook for use with college classes in educational measurements which includes suitable material relating to the construction and use of tests and practical statistical treatment of assembled data. A recent volume¹ by Professor McCall promises to meet this demand rather adequately.

The author has brought together a large part of the current material on the use and construction of tests and has added a valuable section on the simpler statistical methods. Thus the student who is familiar with the tests commonly in use may proceed to the more important problems of application and technique. The book appears to be adapted for use with graduate students, although portions of the text may be read with profit by any teacher.

The great need for more work on the foundations of educational science is partly met by a series of fourteen "theses" which appear in the first chapter. While these include some rather debatable and ill-defined propositions, they furnish a significant background for more constructive thinking of a foundational type than some writers have exercised in the past. The chapters on the classification of pupils and the evaluation of efficiency of instruction are very suggestive. A complete pupil-classification program is worked out in detail, while in other chapters various applications of tests are elaborated point by point. The setting up of objectives in terms of the individual pupil's possibilities rather than in terms of group performance is a distinctive feature of the treatment of the classification problem. In discussing the preparation and scaling of test material the author includes a good summary of the older methods with a complete account of his own contributions. The section on statistics deals with the elementary methods in common use. The treatment is simple and clear, which will recommend it to those troubled by the more advanced texts.

On the whole, the book appears to be a timely contribution in the field of educational measurements. If it succeeds in helping forward "the movement for making teaching a genuine profession," as stated in the Preface, its contribution will be indeed significant.

K. J. HOLZINGER

¹ WILLIAM A. MCCALL, *How to Measure in Education*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1922. Pp. xii+416. \$3.25.